

Pending Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (currently amended) The method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of ~~claim 1~~ claim 16, wherein for each of the communications satellites:
the coded signal is within a communications bandwidth employed by the communications satellite; and
the CW tone is out of the communications bandwidth.
3. (currently amended) The method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of ~~claim 1~~ claim 16, wherein the communication device comprises a transponder.
4. (currently amended) The method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of ~~claim 1~~ claim 16, wherein the communication device comprises at least one of a mobile voice communicator and a mobile data communicator.
5. (currently amended) The method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of ~~claim 1~~ claim 16, wherein the means for receiving and processing the beacon signals comprises a processor.
6. (currently amended) The method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of ~~claim 1~~ claim 16, wherein the means for receiving and processing the beacon signals comprises one or more beacon receivers.
7. (original) The method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of claim 6, wherein the one or more beacon receivers comprise a continuous wave (CW) tone beacon receiver.
8. (original) The method of determining communication link quality employing

beacon signals of claim 6, wherein the one or more beacon receivers comprise a coded signal beacon receiver.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of ~~claim 4~~ claim 16, wherein the means for communicating information provides a real time indication of link quality.

11. (currently amended) The method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of ~~claim 4~~ claim 16, wherein the means for communicating information comprises a display device operably interconnected to the communications device.

12. (currently amended) The method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of ~~claim 4~~ claim 16, wherein the information includes noise information.

13. (currently amended) The method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of ~~claim 4~~ claim 16, wherein the information includes interference information.

14. (currently amended) The method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of ~~claim 4~~ claim 16, wherein the information includes scintillation information pertaining to scintillation caused by multipath or ionospheric effects.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of ~~claim 15~~, the method comprising the steps of:

equipping a plurality of communications satellites with beacon transmitters that generate beacon signals including a continuous wave (CW) tone and a coded signal that are different for each of the communications satellites;

providing a communications device, that is capable of establishing UHF

communications links with the communications satellites, with means for receiving and processing the beacon signals to determine the quality of the UHF communications links;

providing the communications device with means for communicating to a user information pertaining to the quality of the UHF communications links and identifying individual component impairments of a total link degradation; and

providing the communications device with a means for adjusting a transmission power of the communications device;

wherein the means for adjusting transmission power comprises a booster device that includes an alternative high gain antenna.

17. (original) The method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of claim 16, wherein the alternative high gain antenna is a log periodic antenna.

18. (original) The method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of claim 16, wherein the alternative high gain antenna is a Yagi antenna.

19. (original) The method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of claim 16, wherein the alternative high gain antenna is articulated so that it can be manipulated as desired into an opened operating configuration or a collapsed storage configuration.

20-30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) The method of determining communication link quality employing beacon signals of ~~claim 1~~ claim 16, further comprising the step of:

correlating a received coded signal with a reference signal to provide estimated values of time delay components resulting from multipath for establishing time delays values in equalization.

32. (canceled)